

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 075898

61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SC

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REQUEST FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

1. SHORTLY AFTER NOON APRIL 13 UNDER SECRETARY SISCO CALLED AMBASSADOR DINITZ TO FILL HIM IN ON WHAT LEBANESE HAD TOLD US ABOUT THEIR PLANS TO CALL FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. SISCO SAID LEBANESE ARE PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO DAYAN BY PRESS THREATENING LEBANON AND ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER ISRAELI ACTION. HE SAID ANY ASSURANCES GOI COULD GIVE US ON THIS SCORE COULD BE HELPFUL. DINITZ PROMISED CONTACT GOI AND SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GET BACK IN TOUCH WITH US SHORTLY.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY ISRAELI DCM SHALEV TELEPHONED ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE ATHERTON WITH RESPONSE. SHALEV SAID FIRST OF ALL GOI WANTS IT TO BE ENTIRELY CLEAR THAT LEBANESE CLAIM THAT ATTACK DID NOT COME FROM LEBANON IS NOT TRUE; ISRAELIS KNOW EXACT SPOT WHERE TERRORISTS
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PAGE 02 STATE 075898

CROSSED THE FENCE. SHALEV THEN SAID ISRAEL IS NOT IN

HABIT OF GOING INTO LEBANON "FOR THE FUN OF IT." GOI IS NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE FOR ITS ACTION IN LEBANON OR MAKE FURTHER STATEMENT, BUT IF USG WANTS TO IT CAN TELL LEBANESE THAT IT IS USG'S OWN CONVICTION THAT IF THERE IS NO FURTHER PROVOCATION FROM LEBANON THEN THERE WILL BE NO

COUNTERACTION FROM ISRAEL.

3. SISCO THEN TELEPHONED LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER NAFFA IN NEW YORK. HE SAID WE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ISRAELIS AND ON BASIS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM HE COULD GIVE NAFFA ASSURANCE THAT IT WAS OUR CONVICTION THAT IF THERE WERE NO FURTHER PROVOCATION FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY THERE WOULD BE NO COUNTERACTION FROM ISRAEL. SISCO SAID WE HOPE THIS WOULD REASSURE GOL THAT DAYAN'S STATEMENTS DO NOT REPRESENT NEW ISRAELI POLICY AND WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR LEBANESE TO ABSTAIN FROM CALLING FOR SC MEETING. NAFFA OBJECTED STRONGLY ON GROUNDS THAT GOL UNABLE TO PREVENT FEDAYEEN INFILTRATION INTO LEBANON. NAFFA CLAIMED FURTHER THAT ACCEPTANCE OF STATEMENT LINKING FEDAYEEN ACTION FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY AGAINST ISRAEL WITH ISRAELI RETALIATION WOULD IMPLY GOL'S ACCEPTANCE OF THESIS THAT ISRAEL HAS RIGHT TO RETALIATE AGAINST LEBANON.

4. SISCO SUGGESTED NAFFA DELAY CALLING SC MEETING PENDING MEETING WHICH THEY COULD HOLD IN NEW YORK APRIL 15, WHEN SISCO WOULD BE THERE WITH SECRETARY FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SISCO FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT NAFFA TELL HIS GOVERNMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH USG AND WAS SATISFIED THAT USG'S POSITION REGARDING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF LEBANON HAS NOT CHANGED AND THAT USG HAD EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT IF THERE WERE NO FURTHER PROVOCATIONS FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER ACTION BY ISRAEL AGAINST LEBANON. NAFFA SAID HE WOULD NEED MORE THAN THAT AND CALLED ON USG TO FULFILL ITS ASSURANCES RE LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. SISCO AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM, WHO ALSO TOOK PART IN TELCON, POINTED OUT THAT USG IS NOT IN POSITION TO GIVE LEBANON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 075898

UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE AGAINST ATTACK UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY UNDERScoreD THAT LEBANON'S BEST PROTECTION LIES IN WORKING CLOSELY WITH USG, NOT IN GOING TO SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH IS REGARDED BY ISRAEL AS BIASED AND UNFRIENDLY AND WHOSE DEBATES UNLIKELY TO INFLUENCE GOL.

5. IN FACE OF NAFFA'S INSISTENCE THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO

CALL FOR SC MEETING, SISCO AND BUFFUM REITERATED THAT SUCH ACTION BY LEBANON WOULD NOT ADVANCE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT GOL WOULD FIND ITSELF WITHOUT FULL SUPPORT IN SC. BUFFUM POINTED OUT THAT MOST LEBANON COULD HOPE TO GET OUT OF SC WOULD BE A DEBATE; WHEN IT COMES TO QUESTION OF RESOLUTION, SITUATION WILL

BE VERY DELICATE. BUFFUM NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO USG ANY TEXT WOULD HAVE TO BE BALANCED AND REFER TO PROVOCATIONS AS WELL AS ISRAELI REPRISAL.

6. IN CLOSING CONVERSATION, SISCO AGAIN SAID WE THOUGHT COURSE PROPOSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS UNWISE BUT WE WOULD WANT TO KEEP IN TOUCH AND CONSULT OVER NEXT FEW DAYS. NAFFA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY ASK FOR SC MEETING FOR MONDAY, APRIL 15.

7. FOR BEIRUT: YOU MAY DRAW ON LINE USED WITH NAFFA BY SISCO AND BUFFUM IN YOUR CONTINUED TALKS WITH GOL LEADERS. SINCE IT IS CLEAR THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS (INCLUDING PERHAPS NAFFA'S OWN PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS) ARE MAJOR FACTOR IN PROBABLE GOL DECISION TO GO FOR SC MEETING, YOU MIGHT TRY TO FIND WAY TO MAKE LEBANESE UNDERSTAND THAT SC DEBATE IN WHICH THERE IS NOT UNANIMITY IS HARDLY BEST OUTCOME FROM THEIR VIEWPOINT. YOU SHOULD ALSO STRESS THAT GOL SHOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE MAJOR, HIGH-LEVEL EFFORT WE HAVE MADE WITH ISRAELIS, AS RESULT OF WHICH WE HAVE GIVEN GOL ASSURANCE WHICH WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD FIND EXTREMELY HELPFUL.

8. FOR USUN: YOU SHOULD FILL GOI IN ON OUR EFFORTS FORESTALL A LEBANESE CALL FOR A SC MEETING AND SAY
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PAGE 04 STATE 075898

WE WILL BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ISRAELIS ON THIS IN DAYS AHEAD. KISSINGER

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